AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

WHEN COURTS TRIFLE WITH LIBERTY AMERICANISM IS WEAKENED : : : :

In upholding a wage decision by the Kansas "can't-strike" court, the supreme court of that state said:

> "The wages paid employes in a packing house are a matter of public concern, and the determination of the sufficiency of such wages is a question affected with the public interest."

Logically and unescapably, the court's ruling leads to one of two conclusions—either salaries and incomes of all persons connected with the packing industry are affected with the public interest and can be lessened or increased by the court, or wage earners are chattels, subject to the laws of trade.

If the court accepts the first conclusion, it abandons American traditions and guarantees and embraces government interference with the individual, as did England in the middle ages.

If the second conclusion is accepted the court not only abandons Americanism, but it places wage earners in a class by themselves, which even injunction judges deny—in theory, but accept in practice.

To men who grasp the meaning of liberty there is no difference between a court sitting in judgment on wages paid packing house employes and passing on the operating cost of meat packers, the salaries of their managers, or the fees of their lawyers.

But the "can't-strike" advocate sees a difference, though he dare not confess it. To him the worker is the same as in the days of feudalism and those of Rome. To him the worker must "be put in his place."

And to create a public sentiment which will oppose this purpose these feudalists use such terms as "open shop," "free and independent workers" and "the American plan."

During the last century workers forced the annullment of conspiracy laws, but today they face the same opposition, known as labor injunctions, company "unions" and "can't-strike" laws.

In each of these institutions autocracy peeps through every seam and joint.

It can be no middle ground in labor's fight for the Declaration of Independence and the federal constitution.

There can be no substitute for these immortal truths or evasion of historic guarantees.

The Kansas supreme court indicates the measure of the judiciary's willingness to rule and the quagmire that engulfs it when liberty is stifled with.

Future historians will give organized labor its deserved credit for single-handed fight against those who would destroy Americanism while professing Americanism.

CO-OPERATION URGED BY TRADE UNIONIST

Springfield, Ill., July 16.—John H. Walker, president of the Illinois state federation of labor, issued the following statement on the value of co-operation:

"The man or woman who buys goods at a profiteer's shop when they could go to a co-operative shop, are idiots and could not be trusted with money," said George Bernard Shaw the other day, and I agree with him. Here the co-operative society of Sunderland, "n," said, 'You have got a tremendous anti-profiteering plant. Why not about one-sixth of the industry in the country and I look forward to the time when you will have the whole industry of the country. Then its movement will be the greatest part of the country,' continued Shaw.

"The Ripley, England, co-operative society loaned $50,000 to the derbyshire miners and $15,000 to the Notts miners in their recent strike. The Coalville co-operative society made a similar loan to the miners' union in that district.

"The Leicestershire miners' organization has also been helped by workers, which were honored by the co-operative society, and gave a fine value in merchandise. The money to be repaid, with no interest charged.

"The Congleton co-operative society also honored the striking miners and gave the miners 1,500 four pound loaves of bread a week that it was baking for its own members, also gave the Yorkshire miners a credit of $5,000.

"Scores of other societies gave credit to the miners. Many societies made donations outright, and all of them sold goods to the strikers at cost.

"Sensible people do not leave important matters to be determined by chance when they have the opportunity and money to arrange for them to their liking."

SEND OUT "FEELER."

Washington, July 16.—The president has made a "formal but definite query" to Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan to find out if these nations would agree to hold a conference to discuss disarmament, The A. P. learned today. It is said the state department it is announced that the matter of limitation of armaments as close relation to Pacific and far Eastern problems, and that the president has suggested that the powers consider and undertake to solve problems should undertake in connection with this conference the consideration of the general public sentiment in favor of limitation with a view of reaching an understanding with respect to principles and policies of the far east. This has been communicated to the powers concerned and China has also been invited to take part in the discussion relating to the far east problems.

WINNING 44-HOUR WEEK.

Indianapolis, July 16.—The 44-hour week has been made a "formal but definite query" to Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan to find out if these nations would agree to hold a conference to discuss disarmament, The A. P. learned today. It is said the state department it is announced that the matter of limitation of armaments as close relation to Pacific and far Eastern problems, and that the president has suggested that the powers consider and undertake to solve problems should undertake in connection with this conference the consideration of the general public sentiment in favor of limitation with a view of reaching an understanding with respect to principles and policies of the far east. This has been communicated to the powers concerned and China has also been invited to take part in the discussion relating to the far east problems.

On its face, the article seems only applicable to those who are idle, but it has been interpreted against trade unions and has been an obstacle to the development of trade unions and free exercise of the right to strike.

JAILED UNDER MARTIAL LAW.

Williamson, W. Va., July 16.—David Robb, representative of the United Mine Workers, together with several other trade unionists, were arrested on the fall-out order of Major Davis. Governor Morgan's martial law proclamation prohibits the assembling of men, and the state police stealth, it is believed, that they were holding a meeting in their hotel.

MOVIE OPERATORS GAIN.

Detroit, Mich, July 14.—Moving picture operators have secured settlements with several theaters, after conducting a vigorous contest against these concerns.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Brainerd, Minn., July 16.—The Minnesota state federation of labor will hold its annual convention here, starting July 20.

RENEW AGREEMENT.

Baltimore, July 16.—Photo Engravers' union No. 2 has secured a renewal of last year's agreement.

WOLVES GUARD SHEEP IS SHIPPING POLICY?

Washington, July 16.—"Setting the wolves to guard the sheep," is Andrew Furuseth's comment on statements in the public press that the United States shipping board will work in the closest co-operation with the American Steamship Owners' association, and that the board will consult with the ship owners.

"Come to think of it," said the executive of the seamen's union, "our policy is not new. It has operated for 60 years. Since the inception of the passage of the seamens law and during the war. In the latter period, however, the ship owners were dollar-a-year patriots.

"It was the ship owners war, in 1851 and 1884, secured exemption of their vessels from all liability, placing risks and dangers on the shipper and traveler, while the ship owner escaped the common liability of other business.

"In 1867 the ship owners drove the American boy from the sea by rejecting legislation that kept the benefits of the fifteen months amendment from American seamen.

"Through all these years it was the ship owners' advice that ship builders held a monopoly which caused the cost of construction and drove American capital under foreign flags.

"Now we are told that these same influences will aid the shipping board in building up a merchant marine. Once again is the wolves set to guard the sheep."

The shipping board announces the appointment of three vice presidents to direct the operating policy of corporation. Two of them, J. B. Smull of New York and W. J. Love of Baltimore, the remaining one a choice of ship owners, it is stated.

TO DISCUSS LABOR ISSUES.

New York, July 16.—The national civic federation announces the organization of a national industrial committee to order "to bring together the representatives of the non-revolutionary labor movement and the employers who believe in conferring with labor, and the representatives of the general public."

Among the questions to be considered, says the statement, are:

Collective bargaining: What is it? Is it applicable under all conditions? Under what circumstances? What is the conclusion does it, as declared by some, lead to a conspiracy against the public?

"Compulsory arbitration: Is it to be feared? And is it desirable if workable?"

"Injunctions in labor disputes: Is this writ abused as charged by representatives of labor? Or should it be extended as demanded by some employers?

"The shop committee system: Can it be made to supplant the trade union and non-union plants? Does it lead inevitably to company unions, as charged it is doing in England?

"Industrial democracy: What is meant by this term so widely advocated by people who mean entirely different things?

"The American shop movement (so-called): Is it a camouflage scheme to destroy the trade unions as charged by the leaders of labor?

"Unemployment: Can it be mitigated and how?"

The list of trade unionists announced as accepting membership on the committee include:

Samuel Gompers, James Duncan, Joseph Valentine, Frank J. Duffy, D. Mahon, T. A. Rickert, Jacob Fischer, Max Morris, John Scott, John Tobin, John Donlin, W. L. Hutcheson, John McFarland, John A. Voll, Warren S. Stone, H. C. Lee, L. E. Sheppard, C. L. Baine and John P. Frey.

INJUNCTION REFUSED.

Spokane, Wash., July 16.—The superior court declined to issue an injunction against the Typographical union because its members employed in a communistic printing office refused to do work for other firms that would not grant the 44-hour week. The court said:

"It is not contended that any person, firm or corporation has been encroached upon. What property right of his is invaded? There is no definite charge of boycott contained. He has no property right in his employes.

"It is not open to question that, under the statute, the defendant union could call a strike, that any plaintiff's employes to quit in concert. What it has done is one of the removed from calling a strike. It has merely threatened to call a strike if its employes continue to fill members doing work for the specified printing establishment. It can not be unlawful in the union to do that which is lawful. The action is dismissed."

DETECTIVE RETRACTS.

San Francisco, July 16.—Dunlan Matheson, captain of detectives, has announced that he has no evidence to sustain charges that striking building trades workmen attempted to blow up a building in this city. The policeman created a sensation when he made the charge and declared that labor demanded that he produce evidence. He now declares that he has only a "moral obligation" and "moral force."

The Labor Review makes this reference to these tricky employers' tactics: "Whenever the public and the present strike, the railway officials have set a precedent to be followed in dealing with employes who go on strike. Promise anything, give your word to do anything, just so you get the employes back to work. Now break your word, promise and word, violate your contract and do anything you please just as soon as you get a chance. It's good business and, besides, you have a good moral obligation.

"Tuffy" the class of people who spout loud and long about union men breaking contracts.

"Puffs."

COAL MINE FATALITIES.

Washington, July 16.—During March of this year 127 men were killed in the coal mines of the country, as compared with 161 killed in March, last year, according to the bureau of mines. This means a decrease of about 20 per cent. The production of coal during March, this year, dropped 32 per cent from the March, 1920, output. The average number of lives lost during March of each year from 1913 to 1920 was 161, while the production during this month averaged 49,124,176 tons, showing a fatality rate of 4.36 per million tons, as representative of the month of March for the past eight years.

GIRLS DENOUNCE COSSACKS.

Matewan, W. Va., July 16.—A score of girls, budding into young womanhood, have denounced Governor Morgan against state cossacks and company thugs in this place. The girls sign the protest as "daughters and sisters of union locked-out miners." The demand that citizens be accorded their guaranteed rights.

HATTERS WIN STRIKE.

New York, July 16.—More than 1,600 organized hatters have defeated a 18 per cent wage cut after a three-days' strike. Several months ago they accepted a cut, and now they insist that they be restored. They confronted with a long struggle at the opening of the season and responded to settle.

CHURCH MEN'S PROBE ANGERS STEEL TRUST

New York, July 16.—After long silence steel interests have attacked the interchurch world movement's report on the 1919 steel strike. Previously the only reply of steel was the wide circulation of an attack on the report by an obscure Andover, Mass., clergyman.

The present attack was written shortly after the church men issued their report. It is alleged author is Clayton L. Patterson, secretary of the bureau of labor, national association of manufacturers. The bureau manufacturers, and was privately circulated among these business men by W. B. Bowers, secretary of the association. Horner attempted to induce newspapers to have the circulation of the attack, but the steel trust head declined, it is stated, on the ground that it would be "boiled down and there is no use in stirring them up." In January of this year the attack was offered the senate committee on education and labor as "evidence" against the resolution by Senator Walsh of Massachusetts, proposing to have the church men's report made a public document. The attack was later withdrawn from consideration.

The New York World says that the church men's report charges that Horner headed Pittsburgh business men who attempted to stop the steel strike from the start, withdrew their financial support to the interchurch world movement when they failed. Horner became interested in preparing an attack that would weaken the report's value.

The attack consists of over 100 pages. It was before the senate committee it was denounced by the interchurch world movement.

It is predicted that the attack will be used in opposing recognition by the steel trust. Again will undoubtedly result in again bringing the nation-wide steel strike into public notice.

"Liberty's Foes Are Within"—Borah

Washington, July 16.—The people's liberties are endangered by alleged champions of liberty, and a "fifth column" is the greatest menace of liberty, declared Senator Borah of Idaho, in an address on the significance of July Fourth.

"It may seem incredible to many, but to me it is apparent that in American politics at the present time is the preservation of the great principles which have been written in our constitution and so long supported and defended indispensable," said the lawmaker.

"It may seem still more incredible to many that these principles are ventured that these principles, the safeguards of liberty, are today so much in danger of those who openly oppose them as from those who secretly undermine them. There are willing to ignore them when found inconvenient to their purposes.

"The former we can deal with, for we know their designs, whether either by precept or example, undermine the very first principles of the government and the life of the more dangerous. It is said that augustus accepted the sovereignty of Roman people of all their rights and privileges at the very time he was the idol of the people. I believe he was their most zealous defender.

"One of the most common traits of the political charlatan—the man who would destroy liberty—is devotion to the constitution and always betraying it or disregarding it—is that of appealing to patriotism, the fear that the people may have for their liberties, and the love of institutions; hence the necessity of censoring the press and circumscribing public meetings and arbitrarily punishing men for expressing dangerous views."

VIOLATE AGREEMENT.

Dayton, Ohio, July 16.—The local street car company has violated an agreement with the Street Car Men's union on the ground that it is only a "moral obligation" and "moral force."

The Labor Review makes this reference to these tricky employers' tactics: "Whenever the public and the present strike, the railway officials have set a precedent to be followed in dealing with employes who go on strike. Promise anything, give your word to do anything, just so you get the employes back to work. Now break your promise and word, violate your contract and do anything you please just as soon as you get a chance. It's good business and, besides, you have a good moral obligation.

"Tuffy" the class of people who spout loud and long about union men breaking contracts.

"Puffs."

WILL STRIKE AGAIN.

Columbus, Kan., July 16.—"My verdict means nothing to me," said Alexander Howat, president of the Kansas miners, convicted of a misdemeanor when he called a strike in violation of the state "can't-strike" law.

"Just as soon as the operators of this district will meet us, I believe demands a strike we will strike again, and will strike again regardless of all the laws they can write on the books." said Howat.

Hinkle Hanna, attorney, said we will see that our rights are respected. An appeal to the supreme will be denied. I suppose they will send me to jail, but that will not stop the miners from striking when the occasion demands.

"Why, right now, in one of the greatest states in the history of the Kansas coal fields is on. Not a ton of coal is being mined under our trial. The men quit their jobs to show their disbelief in this law."

A significant feature of the trial was a signed statement by the jurors which declared that the law as applied in this case was "unjust."

RETARD BUILDING.

San Francisco, July 16.—H. S. Nelson, president of the general contractors' association, charged with conspiracy. Nelson says that through a "conspiracy against trade," fostered by the builders' exchange, he is unable to obtain building materials, and that he agrees to operate under the anti-union plan, and post a notice to this effect on his job.

District Attorney Brady has received numerous complaints from citizens unable to secure building material because they refuse to accept the anti-union policy.

PROFITS IN WAR MUNITIONS.

Washington, July 16.—The fabulous profits of war munitions is indicated by a suit filed here by Los Angeles inventor who claims $6,250,000 for commissions on the sale of a shell that he invented. A total of 25,000,000 shells were sold to the allies during the war, at $10 a piece, or a total of $125,000,000.

LUMBER BARONS ANGRY.

Seattle, July 16.—Lumber barons in this section are mad clear through because the federal trade commission refuses to let the light on them. The barons are throwing up the usual barrage by refusing to make statements.

LAWS MADE BY JUDGES BASED ON MAN'S WHIM

Washington, July 16.—"Most dangerous of all judicial law is that by which we have been governed, the injunction," says President Gompers, writing in American Federationist, current issue.

"The injunction is the edict of a judge. Through the injunction the judge, speaking not out of the books wherein are written the enactments of legislatures, but out of his own mouth, orders you, me, men and women must do and what they are forbidden to do.

"John Smith, standing upon a street corner, proclaiming to the people assembled that philanthropy could be no more out of harmony with the letter and spirit of our fundamental law and constitution than is the judge, doing the same thing from the bench under the cover of robes of office.

"The injunction does not rest with ordering Smith to desist from doing those things which are in themselves unlawful. Thus, judges, through the injunction, make that where there was no law.

"Men and women robbed of freedom. They are enjoined not to do the things which they have a lawful right to do, or compelled to do the things which they have a lawful right to perform or abstain from doing. All of this is done not upon a basis of law, for the law provides the principles of free government as the basis of judicial decision, based upon precedent piled upon precedent, at the will of the judge, regardless of dissolution' of which, Jefferson warned.

"The time has arrived when freedom can not afford to suffer longer under the arbitrary power which is not afford to remain passive unless we shall become slaves. Freedom has much has already been usurped—taken without right or authority or law."

"WAR NOT ALL BITTER."

New York, July 16.—The fruits of war are not all bitter, says the International Investment Journal, a brokerage firm, in referring to the American money now being invested in Europe.

"It will probably surprise many people, to know that the German mark is rising in value in response to demand by American investors," the publication declares. "The reason for this probably lies in the big profit possibilities due to the low mark. Germany is the only large and practically unlimited resources that has a degree of stability equaled by these bonds unusually high. In this connection it must be borne in mind that the people of Germany are not paupers. They have municipalities own and operate available real estate and other utilities, both of which furnish a source of revenue not available to the allied other countries. The British bonds are also meeting with a growing popularity.

"Of course, the fact that if we in America have made up our minds to 'let the bygones taught' in foreign investors immediately following the civil war, when the much depreciated U. S. bonds were purchased in huge quantities, in the face of the fact that we, ourselves, bonds, by the British, French, Belgium and German people.

"In this time, we can safely feel that the fruits of war are not all bitter."

MATERNITY BILL LAGS.

Washington, July 14.—The Shepard-Towner maternity and infancy bills are delayed in the senate by alleged kindness. Friends of the bill fear that if they are brought up before questions are acted on congress will adjourn with the matter. The bill will not be considered, in the senate, the bill occupies a favorable parliamentary position. The bill, indorsed by the U. S. C. L., is intended to check the terrific death rate of mothers and child birth, and to reduce the number of baby deaths. The federal government will appropriate $1,000,000 each state that accepts the act for the purpose of carrying out the educational campaign. There is no compulsion on the states and no individual is compelled to take advantage of the opportunities for instruction. The law which the bill repeals those who want them.

Opponents of the bill present the claim that it is unconstitutional, but when social legislation is being considered.

PROTEST CHINESE PLAN.

Washington, July 15.—President Gompers and other trade unionists appeared before the house labor committee against the proposed admission of Chinese laborers. Representatives of the Hawaiian planters are here, and urge the passage of legislation granting the president authority to admit 50,000 Chinese laborers to the island for five years under bond.

At the end of the term the Chinese would be returned, it is said, and then be taken back to Hawaii under new conditions or other Chinese recruited.

An alleged shortage of labor is the basis for the proposed legislation, which is looked upon with friendly eye by every cheap labor advocate. The favor establishing this precedent in America's peculiar possessions, should later be extended to the main land.

UNIONISTS ENJOINED.

New York, July 16.—Officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union have been enjoined from interfering with the business of Cohen Friedlander & Martin, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Following a strike, the firm began to ship its plant to St. Johnsbury, Vt., where it has secured jobbers, arranging for the manufacture and purchase of clothes to New York. Federal judge Hand refused to do work for the Ohio firm and the injunction only holds this is a secondary boycott.

TO UNITE TIMBER WORKERS.

Vancouver, Wash., July 16.—At a conference of timber workers in this city, it was agreed to launch an organization campaign in Washington and Oregon. Wage cuts and the failure of a company "union" to safeguard the logger and lumberman has made it easier to preach trade unionism to these workers.

BARBERS GET AGREEMENT.

Memphis, Tenn., July 16.—The Barbers' union has signed a new agreement with employers.

STRIKEBREAKING CREW RECALLS PIRATE DAYS

New York, July 16.—According to cable dispatches from Italy, passengers on the American steamer Pocahontas will long remember their voyage from this city to Naples. The thrilling tale would have a flavor of romance if it stated that the vessel was completely manned by strikebreakers, recruited by the sea service bureau of the United States shipping board, leaving New York the strikebreakers in the engine room had threatened to sabotage machinery, and the vessel was forced to put into Boston, where she coaled with a pier. Steering across the Atlantic, she drifted in mid-ocean for days in an effort to repair the machinery, finally landing at the Azores, where the engines were patched up. Naples was reached after 41 days at sea.

Cables from Italy state that the crew was insubordinate and that the engine room was half-filled with water which caused the ship to list. Sleeping accommodations for the passengers.

The dining room spoons were stolen, safes were discovered in the drydock, the rudder was disabled, and fresh water, oil, implements in one occasion two port holes were opened and the brushing water destroyed, causing considerable damage.

This portion of the ship's daily report, published in the New York papers with this "free and independent" crew:

"June 24—All the boiler pumps stopped and all fires but one out. Gale. Water coming through engine room. Alfred B. Pablo placed in irons for refusing to obey orders. Ed Leslie Fireman, oiler, imprisoned for abandoning his post."

The ship's record is a continuous story of insubordination, insubordination and destruction on the part of the strikebreaking crew. Not a word is made no mention of the conditions under which the crew was shipped.

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WOULD LEGALIZE KIDNAPPING; SENATE FAVORS VICIOUS PLAN

Washington, July 16.—"Legalized kidnapping" could be applied to senate bill No. 617 which has been quietly slipped through that body and is now being considered by the house judiciary committee.

This bill would permit a San Francisco federal grand jury, for instance, to secretly consider charges against a New York citizen that were presented by the district attorney in secret service. If an indictment was found a deputy marshal would go to New York, arrest the accused and return him to the western city without a preliminary hearing in his home jurisdiction.

Such a strike affecting interstate commerce was called in New York and two unionists in other sections of the country were letters to some port of the strike, a federal grand jury in Alaska could indict these unionists on the charge of conspiracy, have them rounded up by deputy marshals and brought to the far north without a preliminary hearing in the district where they live.

If the accused are acquitted, they will be paid mileage to their homes and the interstate commerce act to exceed $5 a day from the time they left home. If the deputy marshal arrested the wrong person, the latter would have to prove this to the foreign court, as the proposed law makes no provision for preliminary hearings of any sort.

The bill is one of the most astounding that ever passed the United States senate. It removed every guarantee to citizens charged with crime, and arms federal district attorneys, grand juries and detectives with a most powerful weapon.

It smashes numerous decisions by the United States supreme court that an indicted person has his constitutional right to a preliminary hearing removed and removed to another district.

President Gompers, headed a delegation of trade unionists that made formal protest to Attorney General Daugherty against this proposal, and similar protest has been made to the house judiciary committee. Many labor editors have been warned of the pending danger and are agitated in protest to members of that committee and to their congressmen.

Members of the house committee on judiciary are: Messrs. Volstead (Minn.), Graham (Penn.), Dyer (Mo.), Walsh (Mass.), Reavis (Neb.), Classon (Wis.), Boies (Iowa), Summers (Wash.), Denison (Ill.), Yates (Ill.), Goodykoontz (W. Va.), Hersey (Me.), Sherwood (Ohio), Foster (Ohio), Michener (Mich.), Hickey (Ind.), Thomas, jr. (Ky.), Crisp (Ga.), Mansfield (Tex.), Wise (Ga.), Tillman (Ark.), Dominick (S. C.)

EXPOSE IGNORED BY PRESS.

Cleveland, July 16.—The expose by Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the Lockwood building trust probe, in New York, showing the looting of public press, said Charles Smith, secretary-treasurer of the building trades council.

"Mr. Untermyer declares that his investigations has shown that building combines have robbed the public of tens of millions of dollars and have made America's housing situation," the trade unionist said. "The exact figures states that he has been unable to discover a single article that enters into building construction that is not the subject of combination, and adds that the only reason he can believe that this is true of at least one-half of the vast industries of the United States outside of the building trades."

What is true of these combinations is true in equal degree of the bankers and insurance companies the exact usury rates of interest, lay on heavy tolls for various necessities of life and on the worthless property on those who seek mortgage loans.

"It is evident that the importance of these revelations have not been lost on the press. It has much to say of the housing situation and all the reason for its existence was fully exposed by Mr. Untermyer about the subject. If it couldn't have been suppressed by the government the ugly little sum of $500,000 in tax money, the report shows.

Toilet soaps and powder brought in $1,000,000 in taxes, according to the government's coffers in the fiscal year just ended, indicating total sales of $20,000,000, it will amount to $30,000,000.

Receipts in the last year paid in excess of $232,000,000 in taxes.

More than $25,000,000 poured into the government's coffers from taxes on engagement diamonds and other jewelry, including total purchases of taxable articles approximately 10 times the tax collected.

DEFY R. R. LABOR BOARD.

Chicago, July 16.—The Pennsylvania railroad has notified the railroad labor board it will ignore the July order which extends the jurisdiction of the national agencies. The labor board operates by authority of the Cummins-Esch law, and workers were assured at the time of its passage, that this machinery would smooth out all differences between employers and employes.

Many of several months the railroads have conducted an agitation for the abolishment of the national agencies, and have finally refused to obey the board with the understanding that the federal government will handle disputes. Because of the failure of many roads to comply with the latter provision, the labor board ordered an extension of the national agencies.

The company's attitude is in line with the Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic railroad, ordered by the labor board to comply with the Cummins-Esch law and not reduce wages until same was approved by the board. The railroad was thrown into the courts and a request for federal judge who ordered wage reductions, and a strike has been on for several months.

"FREEDOM" IN PORTO RICO.

San Juan, Porta Rico, July 16.—The tobacco workers' convention of 15,000 cigar workers, launched last December in an effort to reduce hours and increase wages, began in session.

Armed policemen await the word of trust underlings to club and shoot down the workers. Men and women in these railroad towns are ruled by the hundreds, wounded by gun shots and sentenced to long terms in jail on alleged misdemeanors. In many instances they have been refused bail and denied counsel, even with friends and attorneys. Homes of the strikers have been raided, and the men arrested on the streets without warrant by policemen.

Despite these outrages, which are intended to break the workers' spirit, the fight for democracy is on. Last December, The Cigar Makers' International union is standing behind the strikers.

TEXTILE WAGES LOW.

Philadelphia, July 16.—A state report on the textile industry of this city shows that last year's wages of 40,000 workers averaged approximately $1,100, a little over $20 a week. The total pay roll was $93,700,000.

The 1926 pay roll for 7,339 salaried employes totaled $10,246,000, or an approximate average of $1,400 a year.

WAGE CUTS NO SOLUTION.

New York, July 16.—When wages of steel workers were cut 20 per cent, it was stated it would be proclaimed that this industry was now stabilized. Today the mills are operating but two-fifth to the year of their capacity and additional wage cuts are hinted. The same argument in which being used to support this plan.

PROBE "UNSETTLES."

Kansas City, Mo., July 16.—Probes of lumber interests that have been conducted in the east have "unsettled" this industry, according to lumber men in this city. They say that consumers are holding back and are hopeful that prices will increase, when farmers enter the market after selling their crops.

EXPOSE AT SENATE.

Washington, July 16.—The expose by Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the Lockwood building trust probe, in New York, showing the looting of public press, said Charles Smith, secretary-treasurer of the building trades council.

Mr. Untermyer declares that his investigations has shown that building combines have robbed the public of tens of millions of dollars and have made America's housing situation," the trade unionist said. "The exact usury rates that he has been unable to discover a single article that enters into building construction that is not the subject of combination, and adds that the only reason he can believe that this is true of at least one-half of the vast industries of the United States outside of the building trades."

What is true of these combinations is true in equal degree of the bankers and insurance companies the exact usury rates of interest, lay on heavy tolls for various necessities of life and on the worthless property on those who seek mortgage loans.

"It is evident that the importance of these revelations have not been lost on the press. It has much to say of the housing situation and all the reason for its existence was fully exposed by Mr. Untermyer about the subject. If it couldn't have been suppressed by the government the ugly little sum of $500,000 in tax money, the report shows.

Toilet soaps and powder brought in $1,000,000 in taxes, according to the government's coffers in the fiscal year just ended, indicating total sales of $20,000,000, it will amount to $30,000,000.

Receipts in the last year paid in excess of $232,000,000 in taxes.

More than $25,000,000 poured into the government's coffers from taxes on engagement diamonds and other jewelry, including total purchases of taxable articles approximately 10 times the tax collected.

MILLIONS ARE SPENT ON AMERICAN FRILLS

Washington, July 16.—Approximately $13,000,000,000 a year is being spent on luxuries, recreation, soft drinks and other non-essential and personal fancy, federal tax receipts show.

More than $7,000,000,000 a year in taxes now is being received by the government as a result of purchases of foibles. This is almost a quarter of the total ordinary receipts of the government.

Sporting goods, automobiles and motorcycles, amusement parks, fancy hair ornaments, manicure balm for women and panamas for father are among the articles consumed daily. Cigarettes, cigars and candy bring in millions each month. The average person is a regular patron of soft drinks and soda water are among the items that bear a heavy charge of $900,000,000 on the national debt.

Automobiles are being built with the tax on motion-picture films, theatre tickets, face powder, cosmetics and other beautifiers.

Chewers of gum in the last 12 months have furnished more than $1,000,000 in taxes to the federal treasury. Tennis rackets and sporting goods have added $30,000,000.

Summer fare alone cost approximately $500,000,000, and the federal government the tidy little sum of $500,000 in tax money, the report shows.

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TAX QUESTION SOLVED.

Olympia, Wash., July 16.—The tax question in Oregon is solved.

Governor Hart called a conference of taxpayers' organizations in the state with a view of "striking at the root of this matter." The conference was unanimously convened in this city with due solemnity. A committee was appointed, which recommended "that wages and salaries be reduced." An Everett man suggested a plan and the matter was on idle land. He said hundreds of acres of land are now idle and due to large cities and while held for fabulous prices were assessed at a low figure for taxation.

"Pay high wages that workers may live and low taxes that idle land," he said. "If the people understood our unjust system of taxation they would not stand for last another session."

The following resolution was approved, the Everett resolutions defeated and the conference adjourned.

Armed policemen await the word of trust underlings to club and shoot down the workers. Men and women in these railroad towns are ruled by the hundreds, wounded by gun shots and sentenced to long terms in jail on alleged misdemeanors. In many instances they have been refused bail and denied counsel, even with friends and attorneys. Homes of the strikers have been raided, and the men arrested on the streets without warrant by policemen.

Despite these outrages, which are intended to break the workers' spirit, the fight for democracy is on. Last December, The Cigar Makers' International union is standing behind the strikers.

OPPOSE GRAIN GAMBLING.

Washington, July 16.—Professional speculators will be curbed by legislation now before the senate, if the bill, which has been reported favorably by a senate committee, becomes law. Under the bill, which has been reported favorably by a senate committee, senate committee members had testified that the grain exchange at times manipulated the market.

"Manipulation," he said, "on the 'short' side of the market is caused by big speculators, and 'bear' raids on the market, as has happened every year shortly before or immediately following the harvest, are directly caused by the action of European importers who are enabled to buy millions of bushels of wheat in the United States at the reduced price which they later exchange for cash wheat."

SIX MONTHS FOR HOWAT.

Columbus, Kan., July 16.—Six months in jail and a fine of $100 was the sentence imposed on Alexander Howat, and appealed. District judge Hunter refused to grant a mistrial, which is his address to the jury, to state that it was possible to find the Iowa golfer guilty of a misdemeanor, and was done. The case will be appealed.

OFFERS STRIKE END.

Charleston, W. Va., July 16.—In a letter to Governor Morgan, C. F. Kenney, president of district 17, United Mine Workers, submits a basis of settlement of the Mingo county strike. The terms include: An executive made his recommendations in a letter to Governor Morgan, a union of miners and coal owners' representatives to arbitrate wage questions.